

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice and amend the claims as follows:

7. (Currently Amended) A functional system, comprising:

a collective resource;

a plurality of functional units requiring access to said collective resource; and

an interface in electrical communication with said collective resource and said functional units to implement a scheme for managing access to said collective resource by said functional units,

wherein said interface implements a plurality of states in a predetermined manner,

and

wherein ~~each~~ at least one state includes a period of access and a pre-defined order of priority for facilitating enabling access to said collective resource by ~~one of said functional units among at least two of said functional units.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A data processing system, comprising:

a collective memory;

a plurality of processors requiring access to said collective resource; and

an interface in electrical communication with said collective memory and said processors to implement a scheme for managing access to said collective memory by said processors,

wherein said interface implements a plurality of states in a predetermined manner,

and

wherein ~~at least one~~each state includes period of access and a pre-defined order of priority for facilitating access to said collective memory by ~~one of said processors among~~ ~~at least two of said processors~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program product for managing access to a collective memory by a plurality of functional units, said computer readable medium, comprising:

computer readable code for implementing a plurality of states in a predetermined manner, and

for ~~at least one~~each state, computer readable code for providing a period of access and pre-defining an order of priority for facilitating access to said collective resource by ~~one of said functional units among at least two of said functional units~~.

10. (Canceled).